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ENDANGERED SPECIES

An **endangered species** is a population of organisms which is at risk of becoming extinct because it is either few in numbers, or threatened by changing environmental or predation parameters. Also it could mean that due to deforestation there may be a lack of food and/or water. The [International Union for Conservation of Nature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Union_for_Conservation_of_Nature) (IUCN) has calculated the percentage of endangered species as 40 percent of all organisms based on the sample of species that have been evaluated through 2006.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endangered_species#cite_note-IUCN-1) (Note: the IUCN groups all threatened species for their summary purposes.) Many nations have [laws](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law) offering protection to [conservation reliant species](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservation_reliant_species): for example, forbidding [hunting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunting), restricting land development or creating preserves. Only a few of the many species at risk of extinction actually make it to the lists and obtain [legal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law) protection. Many more species become extinct, or potentially will become extinct, without gaining public notice.